

# NEWS RELEASE



**STATE OF ALABAMA**  
**Department of**  
**Industrial Relations**  
**News For Immediate Release**  
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## **INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS IMPLEMENTS SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER VERIFICATION**

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, March 4, 2005 . . . . . Alabama is taking the lead in implementing a new online computer system to verify the Social Security numbers of unemployment insurance claimants and speed up the processing of legitimate claims.

“The Alabama Department of Industrial Relations will be the first agency in the United States to instantaneously cross-match Social Security records, which will help prevent fraudulent claims for benefits and identity theft,” says Phyllis Kennedy, Industrial Relations director. “This technological upgrade improves our ability to detect illegal aliens and attempts by a number of individuals to use the same Social Security number. It enhances the high priority we place on thorough follow up of claims for both workers and employers.”

Industrial Relations teamed with Integrated Computer Solutions, Inc., of Montgomery to complete the certification for interactive connectivity to the Social Security Administration. So far, Alabama and Montana are the only states to receive that certification from the U.S. Department of Labor.

“Industrial Relations began testing the new system on March 3,” says Kennedy. “We expect all personnel in our four unemployment insurance telephone call centers across the state to start using the system no later than March 11.”

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of State government which administers: the State Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information on Industrial Relations, visit the Web site: <http://dir.alabama.gov/>.